

I have followed the discussions leading up to, and following the recent lifting of the morse code requirement by WRC-03. In my opinion, in the US the current code requirement has been relaxed to the point where it is no longer a significant hurdle for those motivated to “earn” an amateur radio license.

It may be too late for some countries to change their course in this regard; however, the United States of America must lead by example. The airwaves are entrusted to a resourceful and talented corps of individuals who practice and prepare to serve their communities in the event of an emergency.

It is my fear, and my concern that by removing, or watering down yet one more test element required to earn this privilege, we further dilute the talent of the pool. As an amateur radio operator of 25 year, I have always required high standards for myself and my colleagues. There will be an influx of licensees who have passed nothing more than a multiple-choice exam comprised of the most basic concepts.

It may be that this is a reflection of the state of our public education systems. Apparently there is a push to lower our standards to make the hobby more accessible to the “current” average person. We should not cater to this trend.

Some may argue that the CW mode is no longer viable or worthwhile in today’s high tech world. However, it is the most basic form of communications available. By simply switching on and off a transmitter, information can be conveyed. But a common language or protocol must be employed; enter morse code.

I urge the members of the FCC to refuse any further reduction in the standards for any US amateur radio license. This is a matter of world leadership, national pride, and community service.

Regards,

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